

New Members

Fall has arrived and so has this new Wild Ones member. **Welcome!**

Linda Dammerich, Appleton

The Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter now has 258 total households.

We're so glad you joined Wild Ones!

Don't Become Extinct!

See your membership expiration date on your newsletter label and follow directions for renewing.

Thanks, and we'll look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

— Bob Niendorf &
Carol Niendorf,
Membership Co-chairs

WILD Center

Wild Ones National Headquarters
2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd
Located in Town of Menasha

Directions: From Hwy 41, take Exit 136, drive east on BB (Prospect Ave) to right on Northern Rd, then left onto Stroebe Rd. From Stroebe, turn right onto Butte des Morts Beach Rd.

Hours

10 AM–3 PM Monday–Friday
Grounds Accessible & Always Open

wildones.org

“TOWARD HARMONY WITH NATURE” is 20!

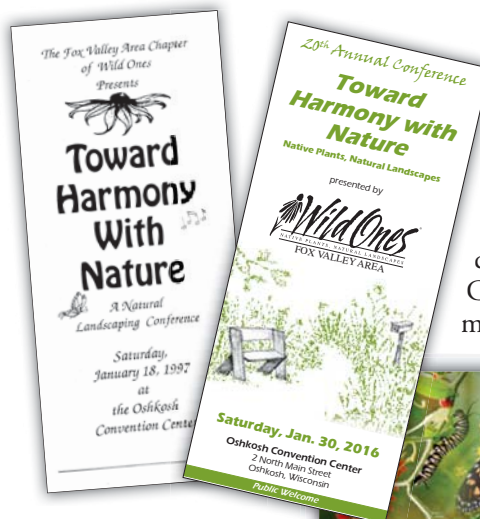
Twenty years ago, our then-fledgling Chapter organized a new event to be held at the Oshkosh Convention Center. We invited one and all to come and learn from the experts how to create and maintain a natural landscape that would bring their land into harmony with nature.

We estimated that if we could attract a hundred people, we could break even; and most importantly, we would further our Wild Ones mission. On January 18, 1997, a bumper crop of about 350 people came to hear a keynote talk from Lorrie Otto, the environmental activist who was the inspiration for the founding of Wild Ones, and to take home valuable how-to information from our six breakout session speakers.

From then on each conference has featured a keynote speaker and nine breakout speakers drawn from a growing pool of native landscaping experts. One year we were blessed to have Nina Leopold Bradley, daughter of Wisconsin's great ecologist, Aldo Leopold, as our keynote presenter. Two years ago we branched out beyond Wisconsin and featured Douglas Tallamy, nationally known author of “Bringing Nature Home,” as our special guest. This coming January 30, one of our country's

most distinguished native landscape designers, Darrel Morrison, will come from New York to give the keynote address.

Please come help us celebrate our 20th conference! **On-line registration** for the upcoming 20th conference will be available starting **October 15** at **TowardHarmonywithNature.org**. Check it now for a full description of all speakers. Conference brochures will be mailed out in November.



Save the Date

Featuring keynote speaker:
Darrel Morrison, Ph.D.
One of the most distinguished native landscape designers and educators in America, along with nine other expert presenters.

20th Annual Conference
Toward Harmony with Nature
Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016

Oshkosh Convention Center (2 North Main St., Oshkosh, WI)

Rivers and Drifts: Natural Processes and Patterns in Designed Places Our keynote speaker, as a long-time advocate of the use of native plants, native plant communities, and natural processes in the design of landscapes, will illustrate principles he uses in designing landscapes of all sizes. Attendees will be provided with a wealth of inspirational information to take home to their own yards.

Please join us to learn from Dr. Morrison and our other native plants experts **the benefits of incorporating native plants into our yards**, to create healthy, sustainable landscapes in our urban, suburban and rural settings.

Space is limited. To Register & for program details please go to:
TowardHarmonywithNature.org

Dr. Darrel Morrison was the senior landscape designer at such well-known venues as the Brooklyn and New York Botanic Gardens, the Native Plants Garden at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. He has taught landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin, University of Georgia, and Columbia University. He has received the Outstanding Educator Award from the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture twice, as well as the National Teaching Award and the Landscape Design Award from the American Horticultural Society.

Events of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area

October 22 | Thurs | 6:30 PM | WILD Center | Man and Plants – Traditional Uses by Jackie Johnson

November 19 | Thurs | 6:30 PM | Evergreen Retirement Community | Banning DDT: How Citizen Activists in Wisconsin Led the Way, Bill Berry, author

President's Message

Mid-afternoon and already the sun is casting a golden light on the pollinators hovering and swooping over Joe Pye weed and Stiff Goldenrod. Those bees, wasps, flies and gnats are very busy. Just like the members of Wild Ones Fox Valley who are hustling to broadcast the message of biodiversity and native plant impact to new venues in our community.

In September, Barb and Marv Gossen brought the monarch display, along with Rosemary Eiden and Kris Kauth who transported the Chapter display, to the Conservation Carnival at Menominee Park Zoo. Children of all ages marveled at the 3 chrysalides and a two-day-old monarch caterpillar eating common milkweed leaves.

This fall, Joy Perry, presented "Native Plants for Pollinators" to 60 people at the Meuer Farms Farm Dinner near Chilton. She and Kris Kauth networked our display at the Grass-fed Blue Grass Festival, near Hilbert. These were two new venues for WOFVA conversations. Donna VanBuecken traveled to Juneau, Wisconsin to present to over 40 Dodge County Master Gardeners about the importance of natives. Her message will reach new audiences when it is broadcast on Wisconsin Public Television's UW-Extension programming. Both the speaker's bureau and mentoring programs continue to receive calls even now while the growing season is winding down, for more help with planning for and planting with native plants. Our WOFVA Chapter is providing support to businesses, schools, private homes, even other environmental groups, in new and impactful ways. Our Chapter has been buzzing with activity. Even at the national level, there are changes, as new Executive Director, Gail Gerhardt, recently selected by the National Wild Ones Board, steps into her role. With the seasons comes change and cycles of growth.

Soon we will be registering for the 20th annual Toward Harmony with Nature conference, but for now autumn is in the air and Wild Ones is buzzing ...and that's a good thing.

— Loris Damerow
President, Wild Ones Fox Valley Area



Save Your Own Seeds by Collecting Them

Never collect seeds from rare or endangered species- collect only from plants that you find growing abundantly in a given area to ensure that you do not eradicate an isolated population and do not collect seeds from endangered plants. Take at most only one-tenth of the seeds so that enough seeds are left to reseed and perpetuate the stand.

The tools and material you will need depends on the size of the harvest. Basic equipment includes gloves, boots, drop cloths, pruning shears, boxes, baskets, paper bags, and/or canvas bags. Although plastic bags may be used for collecting, storing seeds in airtight containers or plastic bags will encourage mold growth. Many plants can be stripped by hand or the seed can be beaten onto drop cloths.

Proper harvesting is aided by understanding seed ripening, dispersal mechanisms and the influences of weather on the timing of seed maturation. Flowering and fruiting dates vary from year to year. Experience is often the best teacher in learning to determine whether a seed is mature.

When seeds are mature begin collecting. Mature seeds are usually dark in color, firm and dry. You may try inverting a paper sack over the immature seed and tying it off with string. Enough light and air will reach the plant to allow it to continue growing, and the sack will hold the seeds as they mature and drop, so that you only have to collect seeds once, at the end of seed set.

The pods should be dried in single layers spread thinly on canvas cloths, screens or trays elevated from the ground. Thrashing seeds (separating seeds from the rest of the collected plant material) is optional, but it does have at least two advantages: it reduces the volume of seeds to be stored, which saves on storage space and more seed-predators such as insect eggs, mold spores and other seed disease vectors may be removed as the chaff is discarded. The easiest way to thrash seeds is to rub the collected material against a coarse screen with a gloved hand.

The two most critical necessities for storing seeds are constant temperatures and low humidity. A temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit or less and 50 percent humidity or lower is ideal. Store the seeds in paper sacks to allow good air circulation and prevent molding. Do not store seeds in plastic bags or other non-breathable containers unless they are air-dried thoroughly first. It is important to include basic information on labels, including date of collection, species name, location of collection, and name of collector. Seed storage longevity varies from species to species. Some seeds may be viable after ten years of storage, while others may not germinate after two years in storage. Ideally, plant seeds within one year of collection.



Reference: <https://www.wildflower.org/howto/show.php?id=8&frontpage=true>
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Volunteers Essential to Chapter Happenings

The success in hosting the WO Annual Conference and Membership Meeting at the WILD Center this past August was quite simply due to all our members who willingly volunteered to pitch in. And, it is always so great to see new members volunteer. It is a perfect way to get to know other members. Thank you to all who helped during those three days and for making the WO members from near and far feel right at home. The compliments and thanks received from the attendees kept on coming all weekend.

No matter the activity, display events, speaking engagements, mentoring, plant sales, conferences, etc. you, our members, are essential for making the Chapter stand out in the community. Thank you and keep up the great work.



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November 1, 1994:
Fox Valley Area became chartered as a Wild Ones chapter

Wild Ones promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.

Board of Directors

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wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com

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Newsletter Contributors

Loris Damerow
Kristin Kauth
Carol & Bob Niendorf
Joan Rudolph, Photography



2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd.
Neenah, WI 54956

Your mailing label is date coded with your membership **renewal**. Please pay your dues by that date. Send your check, **\$37.00** per household, made out to Wild Ones Fox Valley to: **Wild Ones PO Box 1274, Appleton, WI 54912**. Thank you.

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Wild Ones New Executive Director

Wild Ones new executive director, Gail Gerhardt, started her new job Monday, September 14, 2015. Long-time executive director Donna VanBuecken retired after 17 years.

Early this year, the national board set specific guidelines of what was needed in a new executive director and used this in making the final decision. Some of the top requirements were:

- Experience at a nonprofit organization with “chapters”
- Management and business experience at a nonprofit
- 4 to 6 years of experience in a closely-related job

Gail was chosen because of her impressive qualifications and her work background. She lives in the Appleton area and plans to continue many of Donna’s innovations in the next 6 months, as she becomes familiar with Wild Ones and her new position.



You will find Gail to be warm and outgoing. She is looking forward to meeting our members.

Newsletter Online?

Would you like to receive only the online (color) version of the newsletter? Reducing the number of issues to be mailed helps to lower printing and mailing costs. If you are interested in doing this, please contact newsletter Editor Joan Rudolph at wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

Become A Wild Ones Member

A Wild Ones household membership is \$37 per year. Entire membership fee is tax-deductible. Join Wild Ones by sending your name, address and phone number to:

Wild Ones
P.O. Box 1274
Appleton WI 54912-1274

Business memberships and student memberships are also available. Call Wild Ones National at (877) 394-9453 for an application form or check out our website:

wildones.org